

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 30 of page 2, as follows:

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

Referring to the drawings, and particularly to Figure 1 Figures 1 and 2, the reference numeral 10 generally designates a vehicle seat, including seat and backrest cushions 10a, 10b supported on a frame including a set of mounting brackets 12. The seat 10 is secured to the vehicle floor 14 by a pair of laterally spaced floor brackets 16, 18 that are bolted to floor 14, and a set of linkage assemblies 20 are interposed between the seat frame mounting brackets 12 and the floor brackets 16, 18 for supporting the seat 10 and estimating the weight of a seat occupant. In the illustrated embodiment, there are four seat mounting brackets (left front, right front, left rear and right rear) and four associated linkage assemblies, but only the left-front and left-rear seat mounting brackets 12, 12' and the left-front and left-rear linkage mechanisms 20, 20' are visible in the drawings. As indicated in Figure 1, the front and rear linkage assemblies 20, 20' are mirror image but otherwise identical; accordingly, Accordingly, the following description of the linkage assembly 20 applies equally to linkage assembly 20' as well as the right-front and right-rear linkage assemblies.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 16 of page 4, as follows:

Figure 3 depicts an alternate embodiment in which a spiral torsion spring 48 is used in place of the linear coil spring 36 of Figure 1. In this case, the spring 48 imparts a moment to the arm 22 which tends to make the arms 22 and 24 co-linear. Additionally, Figure 3 depicts an overload plate 50 for limiting upward movement of the seat 10a with respect to the floor brackets 16, 18 in the event of a crash. Of course, overload plates 50 are preferably installed at each of the four seat frame mounting brackets 12, 12'. The plate 50 is anchored on a post 52 formed on floor bracket 16, and has an elongated aperture 54 through which the pin 26 extends. The pin 26 does not contact the plate 50 in normal operation, but contacts the plate 50 when a strong upward force is applied to seat 10. The plate 50 is applicable to each of the various embodiments depicted herein, but has been omitted from the other embodiments so as not to obscure the linkage mechanism elements

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 3 of page 5, as follows:

Figure 5 depicts an alternate embodiment in which the linkage assembly 20 includes two additional arms 60 and 62. The arms 60 and 62 are rotatably co-joined at pin 64, the arm 60 also being rotatably coupled to the pin 28 of floor bracket 16, and the arm 62 also being rotatably coupled to the pin 32 of slider block 34. This arrangement requires additional space under the seat 10, but reduces frictional losses. As with the other embodiments, one or more of the bars/arms 22, 24, 60, 62 can be compliant to provide the desired bias or preload on sensor 38, or the bias can be provided by an external spring as shown in Figures 1 and 3.